



A VIEW FROM FEW

AN ORGANIZATION FOR OPPORTUNITY AND EQUALITY
FOR WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

Space Coast Chapter, Kennedy Space Center, FL

May, 2002



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Connie Dobrin

MEMBERSHIP

Umm. Membership...has an interesting sound to it, doesn't it? What connotations does this simple word bring to mind? Probably you think of friends, family and belonging. Our membership in FEW brings us together. This isn't an association of doctors, lawyers, teachers or architects. Rather, this is an association formed by various occupations. We have clerical, administrative, professional, engineers, etc. Though we have varied occupations and levels of achievement, accomplishments and experience we are all members of FEW tied together through our personal and professional bonds.

Last month we had our membership meeting at Kelsey's. Two new members were welcomed (both engineers). It is a delight to see new faces, new ideas, new goals, and new visions. Right around the corner—July 22-26—FEW will be in Orlando for the annual National Training Program. Member participation is critical. Benefits obtained by belonging to a professional association are not automatic. They require some effort on the part of members. It is a human tendency to expect reward without much effort, but things do not usually work that way.

A tremendous amount of useful information will be available at the NTP. In today's world we are constantly facing changes in the way our agency does business. This means streamlining or reengineering policies, procedures, regulations and organizations. Will we be ready for these changes and be a value-added asset or will the changes pass us by? By staying active and sharing your ideas, experiences and knowledge, you cannot only survive but thrive through these changes and challenges. Please take advantage of this opportunity to make new friends and create a broader knowledge base that could lead to future career growth. Remember, we either lead or are led.

SPACE COAST CHAPTER, FEW 2001 - 2002

Officers and Committees

President	Connie Dobrin
Finance	Karin Biega
Newsletter	Sharon White
NTP/RTP Planners	Barb Powell/Dawn Partlow
Nominations	Arden Belt
Parliamentarian	Carolyn Burnham
President Elect	Barbara Powell
Seminar	Becky Fasulo
Compliance/Diversity	Sue Gaines
Webmaster	Debbie Ward
Vice President	Dawn Partlow
Programs/Publicity	Jean Grenville
Community Outreach	Aneta Ott/Patti Rissman
Bylaws	To Be Assigned
Treasurer	Muzette Fiander
Membership	Clara Anderson
Environmental	To Be Assigned
Sunshine	Christy Vanasse
Secretary	Suzanne Worland
Scholarships	Jane Eitel
Legislation	Vickie Hall
Historian	Carolyn Burnham
Past President	Aneta Ott
National Legal Chair	Karin Biega
NTP 2002 Chair	Clara Anderson
Regional Awards	Becky Fasulo
Regional Nominations	Jane Eitel
Regional Legislation	Vickie Hall

I extend an open invitation to participate in the NTP. Membership in FEW is a valuable asset. Invite your friends and join another 2,500 members of FEW at the NTP. Join FEW to learn, grow, create and mature. We have another month to prepare and your assistance would be appreciated.

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### **New Breast Cancer Gene Found - Having the Gene Increases Cancer Risk for Men and Women – By Jennifer Warner**

A newly identified gene known as CHEK2 may account for up to 1% of all breast cancers in women and 9% of breast cancers in men. Researchers say the discovery may lead to a better understanding of what genetic factors affect a person's risk of developing breast cancer.

Mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes have already been shown to increase the risk of breast and ovarian cancer, but these genetic abnormalities account for only a small fraction of all breast cancer cases. Nevertheless, the finding has prompted researchers to search for other genes that may play a role in breast cancer.

To find other genetic risk factors, a group of European and American researchers screened individuals from 718 families with a history of breast cancer, but without the BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations.

They found that a mutation in the gene CHEK2 confers a twofold increase in the risk of breast cancer in women and a tenfold increase in men. Their results are published in today's issue of *Nature Genetics*.

Researchers say having the CHEK2 mutation does not increase the risk of breast cancer in people who also carry the BRCA1 or BRCA2 variations. That suggests that the genes may operate in the same way -- along the same biological pathway -- to increase breast cancer risk, the researchers say.

The CHEK2 protein is involved in the process of cell proliferation and growth. It acts like a brake to stop cell division when the cell's genetic material becomes damaged. This allows time to repair the error before it gets passed on to other cells. Researchers say a mutation in the CHEK2 gene has been shown to disrupt this braking action -- so mutations can be passed on to many cells, potentially causing cancer.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

***Clara Anderson***

If you haven't yet sent in your membership dues, please send your check to our Treasurer, Muzette Fiander at TA-E1.

We are truly glad to have our members support our Chapter and if anyone has any questions, call Clara Anderson at: 321-639-3154 (voice); 321-638-4228 (fax) or E-mail cmanderson8@cfl.rr.com

**We have the following new members:**

**Gloria Vigilante VB-G2**

**Trish Langwost VB-G2**

**Gloria and Trish joined at our membership meeting - Welcome to Space Coast Chapter.**

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Do You Know?

The Numbers for Good Health
Published in *My Generation*
March – April 2002

Blood Pressure – 120/80 mm Hg

The upper number measures systolic activity at the maximum pressure your heart generates when it contracts. The lower number is the diastolic pressure when your heart is at rest. Any reading over 140/90 mm Hg is considered high and puts you at risk for heart disease, kidney disease, and stroke. Check it once a year.

Total Cholesterol – Under 200 mg/dl

- LDL (Low Density Lipoproteins):

Less than 100 mg/dl

- HDL (High Density Lipoproteins):

More than 60 mg/dl

- Triglycerides: Under 150 mg/dl

To avoid heart attacks and strokes know the details of your cholesterol profile. Check every two years.

Waist Size – 35 Inches

Are you apple-shaped or pear-shaped? Carrying your fat around your middle (like an apple) significantly raises your risk of heart disease, especially if your waist is more than 35 inches.

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## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

*Jean Grenville*

**May:** Our May meeting will be held on Tuesday, **May 28, 2002** at the Courtyard in the Grove on Merritt Island gathering between 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Tentative plans are to have Marilyn Clayton, OB/GYN Nurse Practitioner as our speaker. The Courtyard will be opening the restaurant just for us. A flyer will be distributed soon for choices of meals. The 2002 – 2003 Slate of Officers will be presented at this meeting. Hope you can come!

**June:** Our annual Installation and Awards Dinner will be held at the Doubletree Hotel on Cocoa Beach on **Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2002** beginning at 6:00 p.m. Our theme will be Magic and Space – Dreams in Progress so that we can update everyone on our progress with the NTP and perhaps enlist some help from the attendees. This is a wonderful event each year and we hope you will attend. Past members and Past Presidents will be invited and it is always great to see them. If possible, we will try to arrange an Officer's Training session in either late June or early July.

**July:** NTP 2002 – Magic and Space – Dreams in Progress in Orlando, Florida **July 22-26, 2002** is our big event for July. Hope to see you all there attending and volunteering.

### Gathering Intelligence

Are you feeling smarter? It may not be just in your head. According to reviews of IQ tests American Qs have risen 25 points in the last century. That's a startling gain in the face of

public concern about falling school standards and a shorten attention span. It suggests IQ can be developed through education. This contradicts the belief IQ is based solely on natural aptitude. If we took the 1900 IQ test today we would score a near-brilliant 125. This is the "Flynn Effect" named after James Flynn, a New Zealand political scientist.



## SUNSHINE

*Christy Vanasse*

The following members have birthdays this month:

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Christy Vanasse  | 5/06 |
| Sue Gaines       | 5/09 |
| Jean Lewandowski | 5/14 |
| Dawn Partlow     | 5/16 |
| Maribea Pratt    | 5/26 |
| Patricia Shuler  | 5/26 |
| Barbara Powell   | 5/27 |
| Rutha Williams   | 5/30 |

**Happy Birthday!**

Our Chapter would like to continue to remember our FEW Sisters Birthdays as well as any other significant events in our members' lives, so please send information to Christy Vanasse at [Christy.Vanasse-1@ksc.nasa.gov](mailto:Christy.Vanasse-1@ksc.nasa.gov). Also, if your big day comes around and it is not noted in the monthly Newsletter, please let Christy know.

## GOVERNMENT NEWS & LEGISLATION

*Vickie Hall*



### OPM ADVISORY CAUTIONS AGENCIES ON PROMOTING LTC EARLY ENROLLMENT

A week before the start of early enrollment for the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued an advisory to agencies on publicizing the early sign up period. The Benefits Administration Letter, No. 02-904, from Frank Titus, assistant LTC director, said OPM was not encouraging agencies to promote the early enrollment to employees. "Early enrollment is for individuals who already know about long term care and long term care insurance, but the vast majority of your employees are not in that group." Because they need far more information about the LTC program than has been provided yet, OPM said these were not candidates for early enrollment. An OPM spokesman

said this caution was in keeping with the distinction officials have made between early enrollment and the upcoming "open season" sign up.

### **ANY ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLAN FUNDS CAN NOW ROLL OVER INTO TSP**

Effective April 1, 2002, Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) participants can transfer or roll over funds from any eligible retirement plan into the TSP, including funds from an eligible employer plan like a 401(k) plan or a traditional individual retirement account (IRA). However, you should be aware that because the TSP cannot accept balances on which income taxes have already been paid, transfers must consist only of balances on which income taxes have not yet been paid. For more information, see Form TSP-60 (or, if you are a member of the uniformed services, Form TSP-U-60), Request for a Transfer Into the TSP. For more information, click on <http://www.tsp.gov>.

### **OMB TAKES A CLOSER LOOK AT THE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLES**

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is taking a closer look at the number of government vehicles each agency has in its fleet, to determine whether significant reductions can be made. OMB's

preliminary research uncovered some "arresting findings" in this area, including the fact that in one department - the Department of Energy - there were more vehicles than employees (16,351 vehicles for 15,600 full-time employees). Four more agencies appear to have at least one vehicle for every three full-time employees (FTE's): the Department of Agriculture has 40,055 vehicles for 95,100 FTE's; Interior has 25,022 vehicles for 67,300 FTE's; Labor has 5,967 vehicles for 16,300 FTE's; and Justice has 41,474 vehicles for 122,800 FTE's. OMB acknowledges that its research reflects the status at the end of fiscal year 2000, which are the latest available figures. Additionally, OMB says that some departments may require more vehicles than others because of the nature of their work, and that contractors' use of federal vehicles may also play a role. OMB's "first impression," though, is that the number of vehicles seems excessive, and may need to be significantly reduced. Agency heads are asked to submit data on their fleet numbers - along with ideas on cheaper fleet management or leasing arrangements - to OMB by the time the departments complete their budget submissions.

### **STATE DEPT. TO GARNISH WAGES ON OVERDUE TRAVEL CARD HOLDERS**

The State Department has said that it will begin garnishing the wages of those employees who have

not paid their travel card account balances within 120 days. Employees are supposed to pay off those balances within 30 days, under State Department regulations. To avoid garnishment, employees must either negotiate a repayment agreement with the credit card company or voluntarily repay the overdue balance.

### **FEDERAL GOVT GETS A "D" IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, SAYS HORN**

The House Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management and Intergovernmental Relations has released its report card on the status of financial management at 24 federal agencies. The report card grades each agency's progress in achieving good financial management. For fiscal year 2001, the Executive Branch earned a grade of "D" for its overall financial management. Sixteen of the 24 agencies received a lower grade than they did last year. Notably, three agencies that were given "A's" for FY 2000 fell significantly in 2001 - NASA, the Small Business Administration, and the Energy Department dropped to an "F," "D+" and "C" respectively.

Subcommittee Chairman Steve Horn said that the Energy Department's lower grade might be attributable to new criteria this year. Even without the new criteria, however, NASA and the SBA would have received grades of "F" and "D+" this year, reported Horn. **In**

**NASA's case, new auditors examining the agency's finances found several significant problems. SBA auditors determined that the agency lacked effective internal controls and failed to comply with all federal financial management laws, as it had in previous years.**

Horn emphasized that several agencies' dismal grades continue to tarnish the government's overall record. Specifically, the Agency for International Development, the Defense Department, and the Agriculture Department continue to face "significant financial management challenges." They all received grades of "F" again this year. In past years, the subcommittee evaluated agencies in three categories - the nature of the audit opinion (whether it was an unqualified or "clean" opinion); whether the agency had effective internal controls; and whether agencies complied with federal financial management laws and regulations. This year, the subcommittee added four new categories to its grading criteria - whether this year's financial statements were prepared from data produced routinely by the agency's financial management systems; whether the agency's financial and performance management systems were integrated; whether the agency's financial systems contained complete and reliable data on the costs of its programs and activities; and whether the agency's financial systems provided timely, accurate and useful data to support day-to-day management and policy-making. For FY 2001, each of the seven criteria was given equal weight by the subcommittee in its grading. The complete list of agencies and their grades are:

Social Security Administration (B); General Services Administration (B-); Energy (C); OPM (C); Labor (C-); National Science Foundation (C-); Environmental Protection Agency (D+); SBA (D+); Health and Human Services (D); Housing and Urban Development (D); Interior (D); Veterans Affairs (D); Commerce (D-); Education (D-); Treasury (D-); Nuclear Regulatory Commission (D-); Justice (D-); State (D-); Transportation (D-); Agency for International Development (F); Federal Emergency Management Administration (F); Agriculture (F); Defense (F); and NASA (F).

## 2002 CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

Scholarship applications for the 2002/2003 academic year from the Federal Children's Scholarship Fund (FCSF) is now available on their website. The two-page application, along with detailed instructions and a listing of all necessary scholarship requirements can be downloaded by going to <http://www.fedscholarships.org>. Completed applications for the 2002/2003 academic year will be due by June 1, 2002. All Scholarship Awards will be announced on or before August 31, 2002. The Federal Children's Scholarship Fund is a non-profit organization offering college scholarships to the children of current and former federal employees, as well as to the children of active duty and former members of the U.S. military. Also available for immediate downloading is their free handbook, the 2002 Federal Children's Scholarship Handbook (written specifically for the children of federal employees and members of the military community), that gives college bound students, and those already in college, a wealth of information about the ins-and-outs of paying for their college education, applying for scholarships, grants and other financial aid packages and programs. For more details, visit the Federal Children's Scholarship Fund's website at <http://www.fedscholarships.org>.

## As summer approaches, now is the time to follow these Beach Safety Tips:

- **Never swim alone.** Always swim near an open lifeguard station.
- **Check the surf conditions** before you enter the water. Check to see if a warning flag is up or check with a lifeguard for water conditions, beach conditions, or any other potential hazard.
- **Steer clear from piers**, pilings, and rocks, when in the water.
- **Rely on your swimming ability** rather than flotation devices.

- **Do not swim during thunderstorms** or strong winds.
- **Do not dive into unknown water** or into shallow breaking waves.
- **Protect your skin.** Limit the amount of direct sunlight you receive between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Use sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher and avoid sunbathing for long periods of time.
- **Keep a lookout for aquatic life.** Water plants and animals can be dangerous. Avoid patches of plants; and leave animals alone.
- **Stay out of the "surf zone"** where waves break. Waves are their most forceful here, and even a small wave can lift you up and throw you into the sand.
- **Beware of rip currents.** If you get caught in one, don't panic. Just swim parallel to the shore until you're clear of the current, then swim into shore. Never try to swim against the current.
- **Supervise children** at all times.
- **When in trouble**, signal a lifeguard by shouting "HELP" or waving your hands.
- **Wear eye protection.** Sunglasses are like sunscreen for your eyes and protect against damage that can occur from UV rays. Be sure to wear sunglasses with labels that indicate that they absorb at least 90 percent of UV sunlight.
- **Respect other beach patrons** and remember your beach manners.
- **Follow the advice of the lifeguards.** They are trained in beach and water safety. Respect their experience and judgment and never interfere with their work.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- 2 International Space Day
- 21 NTP Meeting – CIAO Building
- 28 Membership Meeting – Courtyard on the Green, MI

June

- 26 Installation Banquet, Doubletree, CB

July

- 22-26 National Training Program - Orlando

2002 FEW National Training Program (NTP)

Clara Anderson

Time marches on and the pace it picking up. We started getting registration forms faxed and mailed to the office the day after Debbie got the website up to date with our registration book. We felt inundated with paperwork by the 2nd week in April when we actually started registering attendees. We quickly set up a check-in form that follows the attendee through the entire registration process. We've set up procedures to handle cash, credit cards and purchase orders. Everything is working well. Right now Jean, Becky Fasulo, Karin and myself are the only ones working registration. Jean and I will be at our office at KSC on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If you are pretty good with computers and could spare 2 hours after work once a week or on Saturdays, please let me know or show up on Monday the 6th of May - we will be working after hours and I'd be glad to teach you all how to use our registration software. We will be using it again next year for our local seminar as well, so the more people that know how to use it the better.

We hope to have our press release sent out to Tallahassee, Pensacola, Jacksonville, Tampa, Miami, Orlando and Washington, D.C. by May 7. Karin has it written up, just need to e-mail and fax to major newspapers. We are asking the Regional Managers to send out to Chapter Presidents with the request that they send to their local newspapers.

We made a trip to the Rosen on the 19th of April to sample three entrée selections and two dessert selections for the diversity luncheon. We are having boneless breast of Chicken Marsala, truffle whipped potatoes, broccoli and julienne carrots. Dessert will be Key lime Pie and Centre Dome dessert (a chocolate mousse confection). Dessert will be done like they did in Indy, alternating the two desserts around the table. Need to be sure you sit where the dessert is you want, or make a deal and share with someone at your table. We checked out the office space for registration and exhibitors, a figured out that we need to set up the office on Saturday as Pre-conference starts check-in on Sunday at 3 p.m. I'm sure other lightening bolts will hit as we get closer.

As I've mentioned before, the 2002 NTP Steering Committee needs your help for hundreds of small tasks. Please contact any of us to offer to help. Less than three (3) months to go and counting

FLORIDA



Florida History and Culture

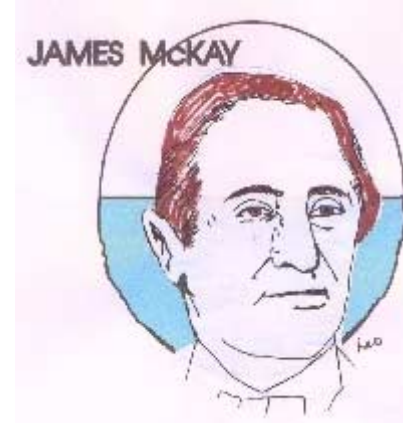
Submitted by Vickie Hall

THE UNION BLOCKADE

The immediate strategy of Lincoln's Government and part of a greater strategy to straggle the Confederacy, known as the "Anaconda Plan" was the Union blockade. Florida's huge coastline and extreme distance from the North made it impossible to defend. Confederate Secretary of the Navy Stephen Mallory, the only Floridian in the Rebel Cabinet, had to reject attempts to protect Florida's huge coastline. The South had no battleships and whatever coastal defenses could be constructed; they had to be utilized to protect Savannah and Charleston.

Union gunboats surrounded the state. Fort Taylor in Key West, a city that refused to join secession, supplied the Union units. Fort Pickens was reinforced and despite heavy bombardment, the Northern forces remained in Fort Pickens, rendering Pensacola worthless.

Florida provided the South with two useful products: cattle from the interior south of Ocala and salt from operations along the coast. Union troops began a strategy that they hoped would eventually cut off these goods from northward shipment. In January 1862, Yankee troops occupied the port of Cedar Key, the Gulf terminus of the Yulee railroad. In March, a Federal fleet sailed down the St. Johns and captured the port of Jacksonville.



Florida sailors like Captain James McKay were exempt from Confederate service because their ships smuggled Florida cattle to Spanish Cuba, for much needed gold coins and supplies. Federal gunboats tried to control

Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor. Blockades out of

Key West never caught McKay, but 232 smugglers were arrested. When they failed to find smugglers, the gunboats attacked salt factories and innocent Cuban fishing camps. Salt and cattle were so vital to the war effort that people in these industries could avoid the Confederate draft. When Union forces began the attack on the Mississippi Valley to split the Union in half, the Confederacy realized that Florida ranked second in the seceded states in cattle production. The grassy plains around Gainesville was the cattle center with as many as 10,000 cattle observed on Payne's Prairie. As the threat of Union troops grew greater, herds were raised further south to the Kissimmee Valley.

Of all the early Florida cowboys, none was as notable as Jake Summerlin, a daring and reckless king of the prairie. He traded the peaceful life of a planter for the excitement of open cattle grazing. Later, when the rail routes were destroyed, Summerlin allied with McKay and A. F. Hendry in smuggling cattle to Cuba. Despite heavy Union gunboat operations, the smugglers utilized shallow draft boats and a knowledge of the maze of islands in southwest Florida to elude capture.

By 1863 Summerlin was rich. Cattle in Havana sold for \$30 and only \$3 to the Confederate government. Brigadier General John Newton in Key West sent a fleet of nine steamers and three schooners to Punta Rassa on the Caloosahatchee to try to close off the cattle trade. Cuban doubloons could buy a lot of weaponry for the Confederacy and the Union did not want this Florida contribution to the Confederate resistance to continue.

The Florida Saga continues next month.

Health Article

Robert Bazell

NBC News Correspondent

Ovarian Cancer

Government researchers recently announced they have discovered a highly accurate blood test for detecting ovarian cancer – often called “the silent killer” because until now there was no way to detect it early.

Nine out of 10 women with ovarian cancer get the diagnosis after the cancer has already spread as there are often no symptoms. Many experts see the new

computerized blood test for ovarian cancer as possibly one of the greatest cancer advances – ever!!!!

The scientists say the test could be widely available and affordable within a few years. And perhaps most important, it may also find other cancers, too. But even if it only works for ovarian cancer, it could be a lifesaver for more than 23,000 women a year.

The 5-year survival rate for STAGE III ovarian cancer is 15 percent. STAGE I has almost a 90 percent survival rate. This makes early detection crucial!!!!

Here are some of the symptoms:

- Pelvic, abdominal pain/discomfort
- Vague, but persistent gastrointestinal upsets such as gas, nausea, and indigestion
- Frequency and urgency of urination in the absence of an infection
- Unexplained changes in bowel habits
- Unexplained weight gain or loss, particularly weight gain in the abdominal region
- Abdominal swelling, bloating, or a constant feeling of fullness
- Pain during intercourse
- Ongoing fatigue
- Abnormal postmenopausal bleeding

SPACE COAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Sharon White

This monthly publication is a means of sharing information and ideas, please send news articles or items of interest for this Newsletter to Sharon White at QP-ES-A-or e-mail Sharon.White-1@ksc.nasa.gov

Please feel free to share this Newsletter with your friends. And for anyone interested, a Membership Application is attached as the last page.

FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN, INC.

Space Coast Chapter 009

Membership Application

New Applicant		Renewal		Previous Member		Change of Membership Info	
Name				Membership Number			Birth Date
Home Address							
City, State, Zip							
Home Phone							
Agency/Company							
Mail Code/Address							
City, State, Zip							
Work Phone				FAX #			
E-mail Address							
If interested in serving as a Chapter Officer, please indicate which office							
President		President Elect		Vice President		Secretary	Treasurer
METHOD OF PAYMENT							
(Credit Cards only available Jan-Mar)							
Total Amount Due: see schedule below							
Cash or Check		Check No.		Credit Card		Visa	Master Card
Card Number					Expiration Date (MM/YY)		
Print Cardholders Name (as it appears on card)				Signature (Credit Cards Only)			

Please place an X by the month dues are paid and pay the indicated amount.

	Month	Amount Due		Month	Amount Due		Month	Amount Due
	February	\$30.00		March	\$28.00		April	\$26.00
	May	\$24.00		June	\$22.00		July	\$20.00
	August	\$17.00		September	\$15.00		October	\$13.00
	November	\$11.00		December	\$9.00		January	\$7.00

The National Office requesting the following for statistics only:

Position/Title: _____ **Series/Grade:** _____

Circle One: SES GM GS WG Military Other

Circle if Applicable: FWP Full-time FWP Part-time EEO

Demographics

Sex [F/M] : _____ **Race:** _____ **Years of Service:** _____ **Retired [Y/N]:** _____